

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01332 241830Z  
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SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN IRISH TIMES APRIL 24, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH TIMES APRIL  
24, 1978 UNDER HEADING A HINT OF PROGRESS:

SECRETARY VANCE'S DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW  
MAY NOT HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ANY VISIBLE MAJOR  
RESOLUTION OF THE MANY OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS IN THIS  
AREA BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET  
UNION, BUT THEY CLEARLY MARKED AN IMPROVEMENT ON  
HIS VISIT LAST YEAR. THEN, IT WILL BE REMEMBERED,  
THE AMERICAN DELEGATION GOT OFF TO A FALSE START,  
AND IRRITATED THE RUSSIANS BY PRODUCING RADICAL  
PROPOSALS OF WHICH THE LATTER WERE NOT GIVEN THE  
CUSTOMARY ADVANCE WARNING.

THAT KIND OF BUNGLING HAS BEEN AVOIDED ON THIS  
OCCASION. SOVIET AND AMERICAN SPOKESMEN HAVE BOTH  
REFERRED CAUTIOUSLY TO A FAVOURABLE ATMOSPHERE,  
AND THE NEWSPAPER PRAVDA HAS ASCRIBED THIS TO  
MOSCOW'S CONSTRUCTIVE STAND. MR. BREZHNEV HIMSELF,  
WHILE COMMENTING THAT THE TALKS WERE USEFUL,  
ADDED THAT ENERGETIC EFFORTS BY BOTH SIDES WERE  
NEEDED IN THE SEARCH FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE  
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SOLUTIONS OF QUESTIONS STILL REMAINING UNRESOLVED  
"OR NOT YET FINALLY RESOLVED."

THERE IS EVIDENTLY A RENEWAL OF AWARENESS ON BOTH  
SIDES THAT THE CONCLUSION OF A SECOND SALT AGREEMENT  
IS BOTH URGENT AND POSSIBLE, EVEN THOUGH THE MAIN  
POINTS OF CONTENTION STILL HAVE TO BE TACKLED

SERIOUSLY. THE COMPETITION IN THE BUILD-UP OF STOCKS OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO A RIVALTY OF REALISTIC AND FEASIBLE CONCESSIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT IS NEEDED IS MORE TRUST, MORE WILLINGNESS TO COME TO TERMS ON INSPECTION PROCEDURES.

THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS IN THE PAST, NOTABLY IN THE VLADIVOSTOCK ACCORDS AT THE END OF 1974, AFFECTING THE AGGREGATE NUMBERS OF MISSILE LAUNCHERS AND HEAVY BOMBERS. THAT TOTAL HAS NOW BEEN FURTHER REDUCED; AND SOME USEFUL WORK HAS BEEN DONE ON THE CONTROL OF MULTIPLE WARHEADS. BUT THERE ARE OTHER EXAMPLES OF TERRIFYING WEAPONRY - AMERICAN AND SOVIET ALIKE - ON WHICH VIRTUALLY NO REGULATORY WORK HAS BEEN DONE.

UNTIL MUTUAL SUSPICION HAS MELTED AWAY, FULL AND EFFECTIVE DISARMAMENT WILL REMAIN SOMETHING OF A DREAM. BUT THE REDUCTION OF WEAPONS AND FORCES MUST BE SEEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS A REALISABLE GOAL; ATTEMPTS TO REACH IT, TO DO A LITTLE BETTER AND TO MAKE THE SURVIVAL PROSPECTS OF HUMANKIND BRIGHTER WITH EVERY PASSING YEAR ARE, AND MUST REMAIN, OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. THE LATEST  
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MOSCOW TALKS HAVE DISCLOSED A NEW, IF MODEST AND WARY, INTENTION TO BUILD ON THE FOUNDATIONS LAID AT VLADIVOSTOCK: IT MAY NOT BE GREAT NEWS, BUT IT IS GOOD NEWS. KRENE

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